

**TOWN OF EASTON, MARYLAND**  
**Easton Town Hall**  
**14 S. Harrison Street**

June 2, 2008

**PRESENT AT CONVENING**

8 Mayor Robert C. Willey	11 Mr. Scott Jensen
9 Mr. John F. Ford	12 Mr. Leonard E. Wendowski, Sr.
10 Ms. Maureen Scott-Taylor	13 Ms. Moonyene Jackson-Amis

**IN ATTENDANCE**

Also in attendance were the Assistant Town Attorney Mrs. VanEmburch, Town Manager Mr. Karge and Town Clerk Ms. Ruf.

**CONVENING**

At 7:00 p.m., the President of the Council, President Ford called the meeting to order.

Mr. Wendowski opened the meeting with prayer and led the audience in the Pledge of Allegiance.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF MAY 19, 2008 MEETINGS**

Upon motion by Mr. Wendowski seconded by Ms. Scott-Taylor and carried unanimously, minutes of the May 19, 2008 meetings were approved as written.

**ITEMS BY MAYOR WILLEY**

Mayor Willey extended an invitation from Troop 532 Scout Master Mr. Ernie Smith to the councilmembers and audience to Flag Day ceremonies June 14, noon at the Talbot County Courthouse.

Mayor Willey discussed lavatory destruction at Moton Park. He stated that when the violators are apprehended, they will be punished to the fullest extent. He stated that a portable lavatory will be placed at the park until repairs are made.

Ms. Jackson-Amis discussed the changing of the locks in the Mayor's office area and asked for the rationale. She stated that she thought that the council should have input. Ms. Jackson-Amis stated that she thought safety issues are a concern.

Ms. Jackson-Amis discussed a personnel matter relating to a temporary employee. She requested that the Mayor look into the situation and invite Ms. Jackson-Amis to participate.

Ms. Jackson-Amis asked why the Auxiliary is not able to use the Firehall for their meetings.

Mr. Ford stated that the President of the Fire Department had stated at the last Fire Board meeting that the Auxiliary has lost their Charter.

Ms. Jackson-Amis stated that those individuals and organizations without a Charter and those not associated with the Fire Department are able to use that building which is part of the issue of concern.

**ITEMS FROM THE TOWN MANAGER**

Mr. Karge asked for approval for a Public Assembly Permit as recommended by the Police Department for the Elk's Day Parade June 29 from 2:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.; total street restriction from 1:00 p.m. to approximately 8:00 p.m.

Upon motion by Mr. Jensen seconded by Ms. Jackson-Amis and carried unanimously.

Mr. Wendowski asked for an update regarding the light on Port Street from State Highway Administration. He asked if there would be a dedicated left turn. Mr. Karge will advise. Mr. Wendowski stated that he would appreciate anything that would move this along.

Mr. Karge discussed the schedule of milling, striping and paving in Easton.

1 Mr. Karge was asked to distribute a drawing of the proposed diagram of what is proposed on Marlboro  
2 Road to the Council members.

3  
4 Ms. Scott-Taylor asked Mr. Karge to follow up with Mr. Hause regarding the trash in ditches on  
5 Marlboro road.

6  
7 Ms. Jackson-Amis asked for a list of all the Public Works persons who have left service; either  
8 voluntarily or not, in the past two years. She stated that she is questioning the turnover.

9  
10 Mr. Karge stated that he will look at it.

11  
12 **LETTER FROM MS. JOANNE BROWE, YOUTH & FAMILY MINISTER, CHRIST**  
13 **CHURCH REQUESTING PERMISSION TO POST A VINYL BANNER THROUGH JUNE 27**  
14 **AS AN ADVERTISEMENT AND INVITATION FOR THEIR VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL**

15  
16 Upon motion by Mr. Jensen seconded by Ms. Scott-Taylor and carried unanimously, permission was  
17 granted for the banner.

18  
19 **PUBLIC HEARING TO CONSIDER THE FISCAL YEAR 2008-2009 BUDGET**

20  
21 At 7:31 p.m., the President of the Council opened the Public Hearing to discuss the proposed budget.

22  
23 Mayor Willey stated that the budget is balanced. He stated that any additions will require some means  
24 of funding. Mayor Willey stated that the budget figures are extremely conservative. He stated that the  
25 department heads were instructed that due to impending budget cuts and cuts in revenues, operating  
26 budgets were to come in 15% below last year's levels.

27  
28 Mayor Willey discussed the highlights of the proposed budget. He stated that the current tax rate is  
29 held at \$.52 with five new positions. He stated that there is money for infrastructure repairs that are  
30 needed as well as payments on a bond bill and funding the accounts that we promised Moody's we  
31 would keep current to restore the bond rating. Mayor Willey discussed the new accounting procedures  
32 required for other post employment benefits. He stated that the unknown costs of gas may have an  
33 affect on road paving supplies and will have to be watched over the next few months. He stated that  
34 there are still approximately \$4.7 million dollars in requests that have not been addressed.

35  
36 Mayor Willey stated that the general revenue is dependent primarily on tax revenues.

37  
38 Mayor Willey stated that a list or revised fees will be forthcoming at the next meeting.

39  
40 Mayor Willey discussed expenditures and the budget stabilization monies. He stated that 52% of the  
41 expenditures are in salary and benefits.

42  
43 Mr. Jensen asked what the two new positions in the budget for Building Inspection were for.

44  
45 Mayor Willey stated that the positions will be rental inspection department and a building inspector for  
46 HVAC.

47  
48 Discussion occurred regarding the security officer for Easton High School. Mayor Willey stated that  
49 there is an additional officer in the budget and the county will pay for the officer going to Easton High  
50 School.

51  
52 Accommodation taxes were discussed.

53  
54 Mayor Willey stated that anyone that requests funds after the budget is passed would be put on a list.  
55 He stated that any increases would have to show an increase in revenue. Mayor Willey discussed the  
56 priority list he has.

57  
58 Ms. Scott-Taylor discussed the tourism request. Mr. Jensen asked if additional money does become  
59 available, how does it get spent.

60  
61 Mr. Kehoe stated that it would not be appropriate to put contingent expenditures in the budget based  
62 upon contingent revenue.

63  
64 Mr. Wendowski commended Mayor Willey and Mr. Karge on the budget and their hard work.

1 At 8:03 p.m., the President of the Council opened the public hearing for comments.

2  
3 Cindy Snyder, Director Sales and Marketing, Tidewater Inn encouraged the Mayor to re-invest  
4 additional dollars towards tourism.

5  
6 Mr. Don Shotz, 507 S. Washington Street asked for clarification on the tax rate.

7  
8 Mr. Ron Mitchell, Inn at 202 Dover stated that for every dollar invested in tourism, there is a \$28  
9 return.

10  
11 Ms. Debbie Dodson discussed tourism activity putting money back into the economy.

12  
13 Ms. Libby Dawkins, 11 N. Thorogood Lane discussed tourism, the sounds system and the safety in her  
14 neighborhood. She stated that her neighbors do not feel safe. Ms. Dawkins stated that she has paid  
15 taxes for 54 years and wants the drainage improved.

16  
17 President Ford stated that comments for the public hearing would be accepted until close of business  
18 Friday.

19  
20 At 8:26 p.m., the President of the Council closed the public hearing.

21  
22 **ORDINANCE NO. 533, "AN ORDINANCE TO PROVIDE FOR THE RAISING BY**  
23 **TAXATION THE AMOUNT NECESSARY TO PAY THE ORDINANRY EXPENSES OF THE**  
24 **TOWN OF EASTON AND TO PROVIDE FOR THE PAYMENT OF INTEREST ON THE**  
25 **VARIOUS BOND ISSUES AND THE REDUCTION OF CERTAIN BONDS AND NOTES FOR**  
26 **THE PERIOD OF TWELVE MONTHS AND SETTING THE INTEREST AND PENALTY**  
27 **FOR DELINQUENT BILLS, COMMENCING ON JULY 1, 2008 AND ENDING JUNE 30,**  
28 **2009."**

29  
30 President Ford introduced Ordinance No. 533 for a first reading.

31  
32 **ORDINANCE NO. 534, "AN ORDINANCE OF THE TOWN OF EASTON AUTHORIZING**  
33 **THE ACQUISITION OF PARK LAND LOCATED AT 215 SOUTH STREET AND**  
34 **AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTION OF A DEED OF CONSERVATION EASEMENT**  
35 **THEREON."**

36  
37 President Ford introduced Ordinance No. 534 for a first reading.

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39 **ADJOURNMENT**

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41 Upon motion by Mr. Jensen seconded by Ms. Scott-Taylor and carried unanimously; President Ford  
42 adjourned the regularly scheduled meeting at 8:43 p.m.

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Kathy M. Ruf, Town Clerk